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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 54% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 77,378 | Nifty 23,431 | Gold 78,400 | Silver 92,466 | Dollar 86.09 | Euro 88.37 | GBP 105.37

Just 8 skilled Panchanga Kertas remain in state, pushing companies printing traditional calendars to innovate, use tech to preserve tradition

SAVE THE DATE

Software used to calculate planetary placements, experts proof output

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Karnataka's traditional calendar-making, a centuries-old craft rooted in astronomy and cultural heritage, is undergoing a significant transformation. With just eight skilled Panchanga Kertas (astrologers) — who meticulously calculate planetary movements to create traditional calendars — remaining in the state, the craft is facing an existential crisis. To meet the soaring demand for these calendars, companies like The Bangalore Printing and Publishing Company have turned to technology for a solution.

"The tradition is fading because the number of skilled people who understand and create these calendars manually is very small
—Vishnu Ananth Hosagrahar, The Bangalore Printing and Publishing Company

Traditional calendar-making is an intricate process. The Panchanga Kertas dedicate six months to studying astronomical movements, calculating the placements of the moon and planets, and aligning these with cultural and religious observances. These calculations form the backbone of traditional calendars, revered not only for marking days but also for their role in guiding festivals, rituals, and agricultural practices.

However, the number of experts in this field has decreased. The rigorous training and long hours required have deterred younger generations from pursuing this craft, leaving an alarming skill gap.

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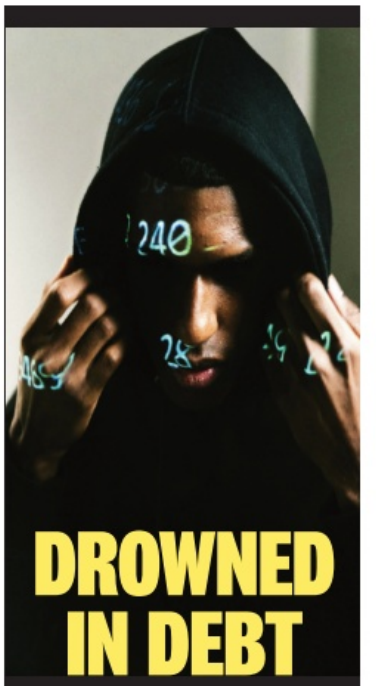

DROWNED IN DEBT

Victims of cybercrime often fall into spiral of debt as they borrow from all and sundry to pay off scammers

PAGE 5

THINGS TO DO

01 Theatre revival

Step into the world of Project Darling. A witty, thought-provoking play exploring female sexuality, culture, and censorship. Join a lively quest to rediscover Kannada theatre's iconic women performers through humour, music, dance, and puppetry. Supported by IFA and Prakash Raj's Nirdigantha, this unforgettable experience awaits Bengaluru's theatre enthusiasts.

02 Cultural elegance

Immerse yourself in the grace of Bharatanatyam as Kum Tanmayi Sudhakar presents her Rangapravesha, "Hariharaarpanam." A disciple of Acharya Dr Raksha Karthik, Tanmayi's performance celebrates dedication and artistry. Join this cultural extravaganza, graced by esteemed dignitaries and showcasing the timeless beauty of classical dance. **Where: JSS Auditorium, Jayanagar; When: January 11, 5:00 pm**

03 Divine melodies

Immerse yourself in the soul-stirring magic of TCS Ruhaniyat – Seeking the Divine. Experience rare musical traditions from India and beyond, featuring mystic verses, soulful qawwalis, and enchanting global melodies. Celebrate the profound works of saints and mystics in an evening that transcends boundaries. **Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel Lawns; When: 24 January, 6:15 pm onwards**

04 Plant power

Dive into the vibrant world of plant-based living at the Veganuary Festival 2025. Celebrate with yoga sessions, cooking demos, expert panels, and over 100 curated vegan stalls. Enjoy family-friendly fun, pet-friendly spaces, and a lively atmosphere that inspires compassion, sustainability, and health. Experience India's largest vegan celebration like never before. **Where: Chamara Vajra; When: January 18 & 19, 12:00 to 9:00 pm**

05 Visual wonder

Step into a world of wonder with the exclusive 360 Immersive Dome. Experience dynamic visuals, interactive storytelling, and shows like Aladdin, Quantum World, and Black Hole. Perfect for all ages, tickets start at just Rs. 199. Create unforgettable memories with family and friends in this multi-sensory adventure! **Where: Nexus Koramangala Mall; When: From 11 January**

From termites to rot, help is on way for tree troubles

BBMP to treat Bengaluru's ailing avenue trees, treatments start post-census in March; experts highlight root concerns like concretisation and pruning

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The Forest Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has decided to ensure proper treatment of ailing avenue trees in the city.

Under the initiative, citizens will have the option to inform the department of unwell trees in their areas with the help of an online application. Once a request is raised, the BBMP team will reach the spot and provide the required treatment.

"We have received many complaints about ailing avenue trees across the city. Citizens can raise complaints through the Tree Census application and we will ensure that unwell trees receive the required treatment," said BLG Swamy, deputy conservator of forest, BBMP.

The initiative is expected to kick start in April of this year.

"Any complaints raised regarding tree health on the application will lead to such trees marked in different colours on the tree census dashboard. We will not be tending to trees with seasonal infections as they tend to go away in a few days. We will focus on trees with serious health concerns such as termite infection, rotting, or those infected by borers. We will start the initiative after the ongoing tree census is completed in March," added Swamy.

City-based tree experts have welcomed the initiative.

According to Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust, it is a much-needed initiative.

A group of citizens in Indiranagar, united to save 10 avenue trees from pests and diseases, treating those infected by termites and stem borers

Recently, a group of citizens in Indiranagar united to save 10 avenue trees from pests, disease, and lack of nutrition. The volunteer group, which included Devare, treated the trees infected by termites and stem borers. The trees treated by the group were concretised.

"While it is a welcome initiative, BBMP should consider fixing other issues plaguing avenue trees such as concretisation up to their bases. Concrete from their bases has to be removed urgently. Moreover, many trees are imbalanced due to unscientific pruning mainly by BESCOM (Bangalore Electric Supply Company Limited) . BBMP should consider rectifying such trees too. A lot of avenue trees are suffering because their roots are disturbed during road development or pipe-laying projects. While treating diseased trees is important, incidents of tree fall during monsoon would decrease only other issues are addressed too," said Devare.

Experts also highlight the need to educate citizens about signs and symptoms to identify diseased trees.

"We have suggested BBMP create an online document to educate citizens about symptoms of ailing trees. They can raise complaints only when they can identify such trees in their surroundings. The document can be uploaded on the tree census application for easy access. Treating avenue trees and ensuring their health should go hand-in-hand with plantation activity. Healthy trees, apart from protecting cities from the adverse impact of climate change also help improve biodiversity," said Vijay Nishant, Founder of Project Vruksha.

> **"We have received many complaints about ailing avenue trees across city. Citizens can raise complaints through Tree Census app** – BLG Swamy, BBMP

4 lakh trees enumerated

BBMP, so far, has counted nearly 4 lakh trees across eight zones of the city under its ongoing tree census. According to the officials, the census is expected to be over by March this year.

"We are enumerating 5,000 to 6,000 trees every day and nearly 4 lakh trees have been counted across 140 wards. The project is moving at a much faster pace. We have issued work orders for Mahadevapura, Dasarahalli, and Yelahanka zones and enumeration in these areas will also begin on January 15. Nearly 60% of the census work is completed and we plan to wrap it up by March," added Swamy.

BBMP seals 830 commercial properties

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has sealed 830 non-residential properties with significant pending property tax dues. According to BBMP's Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil, the BBMP has sealed properties across its eight zones as part of its action against tax defaulters. The highest number of properties sealed is in the East Zone with 231, followed by the West Zone with 226 and the South Zone with 115. In the Mahadevapura and RR Nagar zones, 69 properties were sealed in each. Bommanahalli recorded 45 sealings, while Yelahanka saw 40 properties sealed. The lowest number of actions was taken in Dasarahalli, with 35 properties sealed. This initiative aims to recover outstanding property taxes from defaulters across the city.

Across BBMP's eight zones, swift action is being taken against defaulters to recover pending property taxes. Properties with the highest arrears in each zone have been sealed to expedite the collection process. "In all pending cases, measures such as sealing properties, attaching assets, and initiating auction sales are being implemented to ensure recovery," Moudgil stated.

Between January 1 and January 9, a total of 830 non-residential properties with substantial tax arrears were sealed. In the past 24 hours alone, 182 such properties across all eight zones have been locked and sealed. He said that zonal officers have been instructed to take necessary steps to maximise property tax collection in their respective areas. **— BMB**

Job scam exposed, investigation underway

Complaint filed against defrauding of individuals with fake job promises

A complaint has been filed by a resident of Ranibennur, PH Advay, against an individual for defrauding multiple people by offering fake government jobs.

The incident began when AH Advay, brother of the complainant, introduced Viresh KP to potential job seekers in December 2023. Viresh allegedly offered positions in the Forest Department as forest watchers and guards in various districts, including Dharwad, Shimoga, and Chamarajanagar.

According to the complaint, Viresh collected a total of Rs 6 lakh as advance payments from three individuals for these jobs. The money was transferred through various means, including PhonePay and in cash. Payments included Rs 50,000 on 29 December 2023, Rs 2.5 lakh in cash on 30 December, Rs 2 lakh in cash on 5 January 2024, and an additional Rs 20,000 through PhonePay on 13 January 2024.

Despite receiving substantial amounts, Viresh failed to provide the promised government jobs or return the money. The complainant has now approached the police, demanding legal action against Viresh KP for cheating and breach of trust. The investigation is ongoing. **— BMB**

Hostel or gambling den? Raid reveals ugly secret

Presence of outsiders inside BU PhD Men's hostel raises concerns over effective implementation of campus rules

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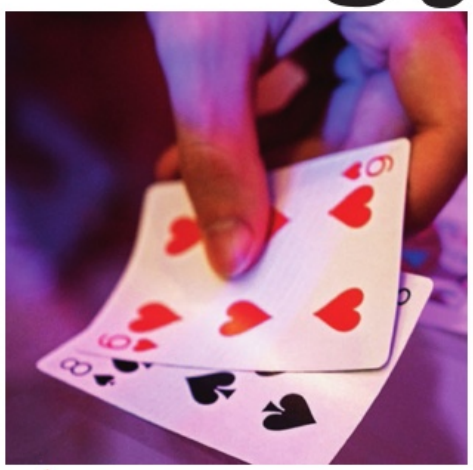
The City Police uncovered a gambling racket operating within the Bangalore University PhD Men's Hostel, located under the jurisdiction of Jnana Bharathi Police Station. Acting on credible information, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) Special Inquiry Cell conducted a raid with a search warrant at approximately 7 pm.

During the operation, eight individuals were found engaging in illegal gambling activities. The police seized 82,500 in cash, 52 playing cards, and other related paraphernalia. The accused were identified as Kalyan Kumar, Basavaraj, Lakshman, Jayram, Chandrashekhar, Siddaraju, Venkatesh, and Raju. Another individual, Shivkumar, who had rented the hostel room and had gambling activities involving outsiders, was also apprehended.

Unauthorised access

The incident has raised significant concerns about the safety and security of university campuses, particularly within hostel premises. It was revealed that several of the accused were not university students but outsiders, prompting questions about how they accessed the hostel undetected.

According to sources from the university, instances of unauthorised activities occur but often go unreported despite the presence of CCTV cameras. A student explained that since there was a shortage of rooms in the old hostel building, some students were asked to shift to the newly constructed hostel for PhD students. It is not yet certain that the CCTV facility will be made available in this newly constructed building.



> **It is alarming that outsiders could operate a gambling racket in the hostel. If they can gamble here, what stops them from engaging in even more dangerous activities?**
>
> –Postgraduate student

University authorities stated that outsiders are strictly prohibited from entering hostel premises. However, police confirmed that only two of those arrested were students, while the others were unauthorised individuals. The raid was conducted based on a specific tip-off received by the authorities.

The entry of outsiders has raised concerns about the effectiveness of access control and monitoring mechanisms. The lack of regular checks or audits of hostel premises has been highlighted. While CCTV measures are in place for monitoring hostels and surrounding areas, stricter enforcement is necessary to deter illicit activities, students said. Surprise checks by hostel wardens or security personnel are essential to address potential issues promptly.

The ills of substance abuse, gambling

The other question it raises is about substance abuse and gambling can have long-term detrimental effects on students.

Dr Sachin Baliga, consultant psychiatrist, Fortis Hospital said how it can severely impact a student's academic performance, leading to poor concentration, memory loss, and reduced motivation.

"What starts out of curiosity or peer pressure can eventually lead to strained relationships with peers, family, and educators, fostering delinquency and isolation. Financial strain from gambling or drug-related expenses may lead to increased stress on the family as a whole," he said, adding that even mental health issues like anxiety, depression, and addiction can develop, further hindering personal and academic growth.

A postgraduate student residing in the hostel stated, "It is alarming that outsiders could operate a gambling racket in the hostel. If they can gamble here, what stops them from engaging in even more dangerous activities?" the student questioned.

Fake cigarette stash: 2 nabbed from flat

Two persons were arrested for supplying counterfeit cigarettes by The KS Layout police on Saturday. The operation led to the seizure of 26 boxes of fake cigarettes and 4 small boxes valued at 40 lakh.

The accused, identified as Nishad (25)and Shakeel (33), hail from Kerala and were residing in a rented apartment in Bellandur. They reportedly operated a network to sell fake cigarettes across the city. Acting on specific information, the police intercepted a motorcycle that was transporting the counterfeit products near Dayananda Sagar College.

Upon detaining the rider, officers discovered fake cigarettes and further interrogation revealed a stash in a Bellandur apartment. Following this lead, the police raided the location, arrested the second suspect, and seized 30 boxes.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the counterfeit cigarettes were sourced from Cambodia. Authorities are intensifying efforts to trace another individual linked to the case who is currently absconding. –BMB

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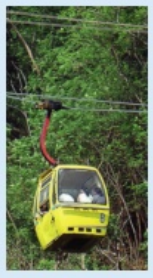

Ropeway proposal risks fragile ecosystem of wildlife sanctuary

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Art No. 7072 MRP : ₹349.00
Art No. 7071 MRP : ₹329.00
Art No. 9453 MRP : ₹289.00
KIDS COLLECTIONS
Art No. 2325 MRP : ₹259.00
Art No. 2300 MRP : ₹299.00
Art No. 2375 MRP : ₹269.00
T&C* *MRP mentioned is per pair(2N). *MRP is subjected to change without any prior intimation.

No stop to meat shop dumping waste in fields, drains & lakes

Inspection of facility in Bengaluru reveals violations, with wastewater being discharged into drains and fields; authorities issue show cause notice for immediate action

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Various sources have been polluting the city's drains and water bodies for years. While dyeing units have long been known for discharging wastewater into lakes and drains, now, super bazaars specialising in supplying cleaned chicken, fish, and goat cuts have also joined the list of environmental offenders.

Based on a complaint by Jagan Kumar J, a social activist, against letting wastewater into drains agricultural fields and water bodies, the Environmental Officer of Mahadevapura, has inspected a facility owned by Freshalicious Super Bazaar Pvt Ltd situated at Chikkagubbi village in Bidarahalli hobli and found many violations leading to polluting the environment. The environmental officer issued a show cause notice to the Director on October 16, 2024, to requesting details of the slaughterhouses/facilities for the past year.

Super bazaars selling cleaned meats now join list of environmental offenders, discharging wastewater into lakes, drains and fields

"The untreated water released into drains around the villages will become a health hazard for villagers. I urge authorities to take action – Paramesh, social activist

"You have to submit the certificate issued from FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) for processing of your products. You have to produce photographs showing flow meters provided for freshwater consumption and the outlet of the CETP (Common Effluent Treatment Plant) and an action plan for adopting a good water management system within the industrial premises and to control the pollution caused due to the operation of the unit. The details of wastewater discharged through the private tankers, place of disposal, authorisation/consent issued to the tankers for carrying industrial effluent," the show cause notice read.

Action pending

The show cause notice has also stated that the Regional Office, Mahadevapura of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has not received any information on October 16, 2024 from the company even after giving sufficient time. The Regional Office issued a notice on September 18, 2024, and inspection of the facility was done on October 7, 2024.

"You have to show cause within seven days from receiving this notice as to why this office shall not recommend the KSPCB to withdraw the consent issued by it. To issue directions to BESCOM (Bangalore Electricty Supply Company Limited) to cut off power supply to your unit under Section 33 (A) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & Section 31(A) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and file a criminal complaint against you and your unit for violation of provisions of Water (P&CP) Act, 1974 & Air (P&CP) Act, 1981 and levy environmental compensation for the damages caused to the environment if any by your industry," the show cause notice read.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Jagan Kumar J, who complained to the KSPCB, said the authorities have failed to take stringent action against the Director. "I think that the KSPCB environmental officer has issued a notice to the Director of the company in October but has not taken action even after three months," said Jagan Kumar.

Health risk

Demanding the KSPCB authorities to protect the environment by acting tough against industries that pollute the environment, Paramesh V, a social activist, said the tankers, engaged by Freshalicious Super Bazaar Pvt Ltd, are letting waste and untreated water into drains and agricultural fields around Chikkagubbi. "The untreated water released into drains around the villages will become a health hazard for the villagers. I want the authorities concerned to take stringent action against those people letting wastewater into drains and agricultural fields," Paramesh said.

Meanwhile, Raju KM, environmental officer, Mahadevapura, KSPCB, said, "I am authorised to act against those units that fall under the green category. The Freshalicious Super Bazaar Pvt Ltd comes under the orange category. I am not authorised to take action against industrial units that fall under the orange category." When contacted, KSPCB Senior Environmental Officer Syed Khaja said, "I have issued a notice to the company"

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage pile-up

Anand Rao Circle

Anand Rao Circle, situated near the bustling Majestic area, has become an eyesore, with heaps of garbage and poor maintenance creating a dismal scene.

Vehicle junk

Medahalli

An outstation vehicle is parked on the footpath near Fortius Waterscape, Kurudusonehalli Road, opposite the lake in Medahalli. Authorities should take action.

Cauvery Stage 6 project to secure steady water supply to B'luru

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After implementing the Cauvery Stage 5 project last year, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is now advancing the Cauvery Stage 6 project to secure the city's future water requirements. The board aims to submit a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the state government by the end of this month. The DPR, prepared by a private company, has been reviewed and approved by the board. Following this, the board plans to submit the proposal for government approval.

Project overview

An official said, "Currently, the water supply for the Cauvery Stage 5 project is sourced from Torekadanahalli in Malavalli Taluk. Under Stage 6, 500 MLD (million litres per day) of water will be sourced from the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) reservoir, located approximately 140 km away from Bengaluru. This additional water, amounting to 6 TMC annually, will come at an estimated cost of ₹5,177 crore (as per 2023-24 rates).

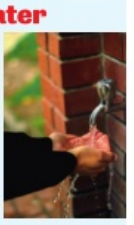
Infrastructure details

According to the DPR, a water treatment plant and reservoir will be established near Katteri village, just 2 km from the KRS reservoir, at an estimated cost of ₹900.20 crore. Treated water from this facility will be pumped and transported 82 km to Devarahosahalli near the Ramanagara bypass through a gravity-based system. The transmission of water will be facilitated by an advanced hydraulic system, which is projected to cost ₹2,206 crore. At Devarahosahalli, a pumping station and secondary reservoir will be constructed for ₹1,100 crore, from where water will be pumped 43 km to a place near RajaRajeswari Medical College. Additionally, another pumping station and reservoir will be built near the NICE Road junction in Kengeri at a cost of ₹910 crore. From this location, water will be transported 32 km via pipelines to GKVK's urban reservoir for final distribution.

Targeted areas

The project aims to supply water to Shivaram Karanth Layout, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, surrounding areas, and towns like Devanahalli, Hoskote, Anekal, Bidadi, and Nelamangala. Out of the 500 MLD planned, a significant portion will be allocated to these towns, with local bodies responsible for final distribution. Sources said that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has expressed keen interest in the project, which has already received DPR approval from the BWSSB. The proposal will soon be presented to the state government.

Breakdown of water supply by Stages



Stage 1: 140 MLD/day
Stage 2: 140 MLD/day
Stage 3: 320 MLD/day
Stage 4: (Phases 1 and 2): 850 MLD/day
Stage 5: 775 MLD/day
Proposed Stage 6: 500 MLD/day

Water supply projections post-Stage 6

Current supply: 1,450 MLD (19 TMC annually).
Supply from Stage 5: 775 MLD (10 TMC annually).
Proposed Stage 6 supply: 500 MLD (6 TMC annually).
Total annual supply after Stage 6: Approximately 35 TMC.

Funding and land acquisition

An official said, "The project requires funding, for which the board is in discussions with international organisations like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, JICA, HUDCO. The land acquisition process will be managed by the state government."

Cybercrimes push victims down debt rabbithole

People caught in trap often borrow from all avenues possible to pay off scammers chasing resolution of issues that don't exist

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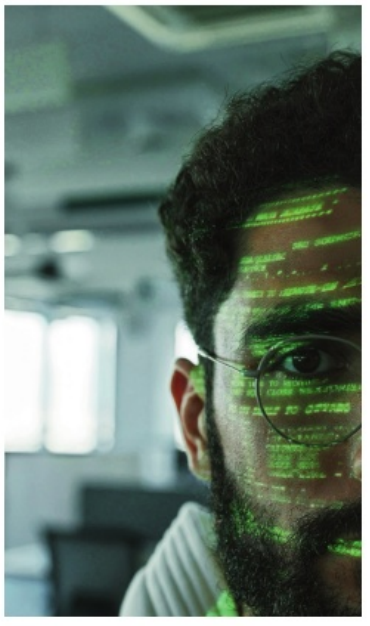
Cybercrimes have now evolved into a sophisticated menace, leaving victims not only emotionally shattered but also financially crippled. For many, the result is a relentless spiral into a debt trap, an invisible prison from which escape seems almost impossible. A 28-year-old techie from the city recently lost over ₹1.2 crore to fraudsters between December 21 and January 3 after falling victim to a fake courier call.

Claiming that there was a suspicious parcel in her name, the scammers, posing as courier representatives and police, threatened arrest and demanded payments. The victim liquidated her assets and took a ₹40 lakh loan to comply, transferring large sums to the fraudsters. They issued fake documents, including a 'Supreme Court' financial certificate, to maintain the ruse. When the promised resolution never arrived, she reported the incident to the East CEN Crime police, who are now investigating.



Chief Cyber Security Advisor Dr Harsha Thennarasu explains that there are numerous similar cases. In one illustration, a woman took loans amounting to ₹90 lakh to pay cyber fraudsters. Investigations revealed that she had borrowed from multiple loan apps. "Victims of cybercrime not only face financial losses but also suffer from the misuse of their personal and confidential information. This misuse often extends to their contacts, creating a chain reaction of harm. Despite the severity of these cases, many victims hesitate to come forward or report the incidents to the police, further complicating efforts to address the issue," he said.

According to the Bengaluru police data, there have been 16,357 cyber crime cases reported in 2024. Cybercriminals are using increasingly sophisticated methods to target individuals, including fake lending apps, investment scams, and phishing emails that mimic official communication from banks or government agencies.

Awareness is key

Experts attribute the rise in such cases to a lack of awareness about cybersecurity and the increasing sophistication of online scams. To address this growing problem, the Bengaluru Police have launched an awareness campaign urging citizens to be cautious while sharing personal information online. Key recommendations include avoiding suspicious links, verifying the authenticity of loan or job offers, and enabling two-factor authentication on banking apps. Police officials urge people to report cyber crime at Cyber Crime Helpline at 1930. By reporting immediately, authorities can attempt to freeze fraudulent transactions and investigate the crime.

Instant loan approval promise

Dr Harsha said one common scam involves fraudulent loan apps that promise instant approvals with no documentation. Victims download these apps, unaware that their personal data is being harvested. When they fail to repay, the scammers resort to blackmail, threatening to release sensitive information or publicly shame the victim. The exorbitant interest rates charged by these apps further exacerbate the financial burden.

"We are witnessing a pattern where victims, in their desperation to recover stolen money, take loans from informal lenders or fall into further traps laid by cybercriminals," said the expert. "The cycle of borrowing and repayment spirals out of control, leading to severe financial distress."

Cybercriminals impersonate officials, demanding immediate payment to "resolve" the issue. Fearing social stigma or legal consequences, victims borrow money from friends, family, or high-interest lenders to pay the scammers.

Dr Harsha explains that cybercriminals not only set traps but also monitor SMS and financial records to exploit their victims. If your account holds ₹10,000, they may start harassing you to pay more for a loan, often within a tight deadline. For those with larger balances, such as ₹5 lakh, they might coerce you into taking additional loans by offering top-ups. These fraudsters specifically target individuals vulnerable to blackmail. Among 100 people, around 80 manage to recover by selling assets, but the rest face severe challenges, including depression and harassment. Some victims receive threatening emails at work. While 10-15% might default intentionally, most are genuine victims.

Advertorial

Are you ready for a captivating evening of music? Indian Ocean to take city by storm soon

Sing-along hits of band to be highlights of concert

The iconic rock fusion band Indian Ocean will be performing at Bengaluru as a part of their 35 Years Celebration, Since 1990 Tour. Catch them live at Phoenix Marketcity, Bengaluru, on 31st January.

Known for their evocative and soul-stirring tracks, Indian Ocean has captivated audiences with unforgettable songs like "Ma Rewa," the spiritual "Kandisa," the gripping "Bandeh," the heartfelt "Des Mera," and the rhythmic "Hille Le," among many other classics that have cemented their legacy in Indian fusion music.

The show is produced by Akar Advertising & Marketing Pvt. Ltd. and Hummingbird Inc. Events. Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror are the proud print partners for this event.

Whether you've been a fan for decades or are just discovering their music, this is a show you wouldn't want to miss. Book your tickets now on BookMyShow and join us at Phoenix MarketCity for a power-packed evening with Indian Ocean!

EVENT DETAILS:
Date: 31st JAN 2025
Time: 8:00 PM
Venue: Phoenix Marketcity Whitefield

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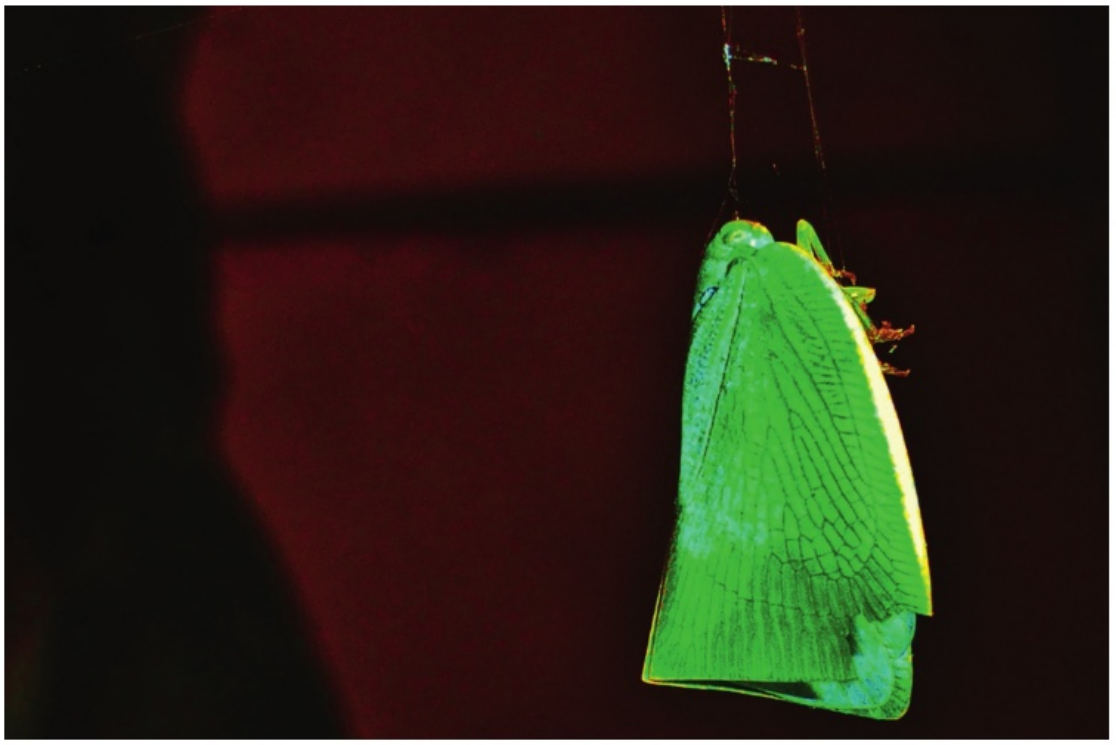
BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO



LURKING DEATH

This beautiful moth was doomed the moment it got stuck to a sticky thread hanging from a spider web. Threads of the web are only 0.15mm in diameter but stronger than steel. This scene was captured at the Joggers Park.

The picture was clicked by reader **S Sampthkumari**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Residents join hands with BBMP to clean blackspot

After garbage dumped at KSFC Layout in Lingarajapuram is cleared out, citizens request second shift of trash collection

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of KSFC Layout, Ward 49, Lingarajapuram, have been working to address a long-standing issue of garbage dumping at the South End corner of the burial ground. The area, spanning over 50 feet, had become a site for discarded vegetables, fruits, meat products, broken furniture, and old mattresses. The garbage led to a foul stench, rat infestations, and made living conditions difficult, forcing some residents to vacate their homes.

Follow-ups

The Residents Welfare Association (RWA), led by its President, P Jayaseelan, consistently raised the issue with BBMP officials, submitting letters and photographs to highlight the problem. "We have been following up regularly and even discussed the matter with MLA and Minister KG George," said Jayaseelan.

Progress began after AEE, Solid Waste Management, Sarvagnanagar, Mamta, conducted surprise visits to the layout early in the morning.

During a recent meeting with BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, residents submitted a written request for marshals, streetlight repairs, and CCTV camera installation to deter further dumping. On January 8, the area saw significant improvement. Zinc sheets were installed along the stretch, painted by the NGO The Ugly Indian. A BBMP team led by Mamta cleaned the area, while banners urging the public not to dump garbage were installed.

> **Evening garbage collection could help prevent creation of black spots across the city**
>
> –P Jayaseelan, RWA president

"We appreciate the efforts of BBMP SWM DGM Dhana Nayak and the contractor's team for their support," said a resident.

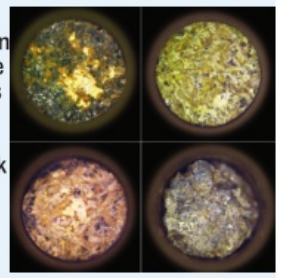
Other plea

Residents have now appealed to the BBMP Chief Commissioner to introduce an evening garbage collection shift around 7 pm. "This would allow those unable to hand over waste in the morning to use evening services, which could help prevent black spots across the city," added Jayaseelan.

As many people miss the garbage collection rounds in the morning, dumping of trash becomes rampant

DID YOU KNOW?

NASA is pitching a cheaper and quicker way of getting rocks and soil back from Mars, after seeing its original plan swell to $11 billion. Administrator Bill Nelson presented a revised scenario Tuesday, less than two weeks before stepping down as NASA's chief when President-elect Donald Trump is inaugurated. Nelson said he "pulled the plug" months ago on the original sample return plan given the soaring costs and the delay in getting anything back from Mars before 2040. NASA last year asked industry and others to come up with better options to ensure the samples collected in cigar-size tubes by NASA's Perseverance rover arrive here in the 2030s, well ahead of astronauts venturing to the red planet.



"We want to return 30 titanium tubes as soon as possible at the cheapest price," Nelson said. The space agency said it is considering two options that would cost in the $6 billion to $7 billion range, including one that would feature innovative designs by commercial partners. The number of spacecraft and launches would remain the same, but NASA said the proposed options would streamline the mission. — AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Do underarm puffs indicate toxin buildup in the body?

| Firstcheck.in

There is no scientific evidence linking underarm "puffs" to toxin buildup.

CLAIM: Puffs in your underarms signify toxin buildup in the body

FACT: There is no scientific evidence that underarm "puffs" indicate toxin buildup. Variations in armpit appearance are normal and related to factors like body composition and anatomy An Instagram reel from the channel @excelled.health uploaded on 23 December, 2024, asserts that a "puff" rather than a "pit" in the armpit area signals stagnant lymph and accumulated toxins.

"You should have a pit (in your armpit) and not a puff, if it's a puff, like look in the mirror and your armpit is a puff then that's stagnant lymph," says the expert Dr Mindy Pelz in the reel, which has around 63,000 likes and close to 5 million views.

"That means you're pulling the toxins, for women that means you're not pulling the toxins that are coming out of your breasts. Toxins that are coming form the head down into the thoracic areas not getting out because its congested (sic)," she says, while adding that this means that "if your underarm is puffy and not like a pit then you must be storing some of these toxins."

While the reel was posted a couple of weeks ago, it seems to have been cut from a longer podcast video on YouTube, that is over a year old. The YouTube video was posted by the channel called The Diary of a CEO, which has 9 million followers, and the video itself has been viewed over 8.5 million times.

What is the fact?

Dr. Shashi Raheja, Professor Department of Anatomy at Lady Hardinge Medical College.disputes these "oversimplified assertions." "The appearance of someone's armpit is determined by multiple factors, including body composition, subcutaneous fat distribution, and individual anatomy," she told First Check. "It's not an indicator of toxin buildup or lymphatic dysfunction."

The lymphatic system, according to Dr Raheja, does play a crucial role in immune function and fluid balance, but its effectiveness cannot be assessed by merely looking at armpit contours.

'The lymphatic system is complex and its function cannot be evaluated through simple visual inspection of the armpit area," she says, adding the human body has multiple mechanisms for removing waste products, primarily through the liver, kidneys, and digestive system. "While the lymphatic system helps transport fluid and immune cells, it doesn't function as a primary toxin removal system as suggested in the viral claims,"she adds. First Check concludes that while maintaining good lymphatic health is important, the appearance of your armpits is not a reliable indicator of toxin buildup or lymphatic function. The reel is misleading.

The story was originally published by firstcheck.in (https://firstcheck.in/fact-check-do-underarm-puffs-indicate-toxin-build-up-in-the-body/) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective)

Lalbagh footpath woes ahead of Flower Show

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As the much-anticipated Republic Day Flower Show at Lalbagh Botanical Garden approaches, residents are raising alarm over the deteriorated condition of the footpath near the South Gate and Siddapura Gate. The event, scheduled from January 16 to 26, is expected to attract lakhs of visitors and the residents pointed out the poor state of the footpath.

Residents and daily commuters point out that the footpath opposite Lalbagh, despite being on a major road and located behind the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) office of the assembly, is in a deplorable state. Large sections of footpath slabs have come loose, creating unsafe gaps and posing a danger to pedestrians. Accumulated garbage, dry leaves, and broken kerbstones have made matters worse, turning the walkway into an eyesore and a safety hazard.

"Half the footpath slabs are either missing or damaged. It's impossible to walk without risking injury. To make matters worse, people are throwing garbage here, and it looks like no one is maintaining the area," said Dr Saravana, a resident of Jayanagar.

Adding to the misery, residents have complained about frequent instances of public urination and open defecation along the footpath. "This is one of the busiest areas. It is disheartening to see such neglect right next to our city's pride, Lalbagh. How can we welcome visitors with such a mess?" questioned Adil, another concerned resident.

The situation has left many questioning the city's preparedness for hosting large-scale events. The flower show is a major attraction that showcases Bengaluru's horticultural pride, but the poor infrastructure around the venue is causing frustration among citizens. The citizen pointed out that the condition has been poor for about 6 months, and nobody has tried to fix it.

Residents have urged BBMP to take immediate action to repair the footpath and clean up the area before the event begins. "Broken or uneven slabs pose a significant risk of trips and falls, especially for senior citizens, children, and individuals with disabilities. Accumulated garbage and debris not only make walking unpleasant but also create unhygienic conditions, potentially attracting pests and spreading diseases. Lack of proper walkways forces pedestrians onto busy roads, increasing the risk of accidents and traffic congestion. The flower show should reflect the beauty of our city, not highlight its neglect. Authorities need to act swiftly," added Dr Saravana.

Footpath opposite Lalbagh in poor condition

Ropeway proposal risks Mookambika's ecosystem

Conservationists oppose proposed infrastructure project in Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary, citing potential harm to fragile environment and biodiversity

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Wildlife conservationists and activists have red-flagged a linear infrastructure project proposed in Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary in Western Ghat to promote tourism.

The National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to construct a ropeway from Kollur that will end at Kodachadri Hills in Udupi. The 3.726 kilometre-long ropeway falls entirely inside the protected area and will require the diversion of 11.4641 hectares of forest land, including the removal of 500 trees from the fragile ghat region.

The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs 375.45 crore

File photo of ropeway

Experts say Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary is a crucial landscape and is a sensitive ecosystem habitat. It houses many endemic and endangered species of plants and animals, which will be impacted if the project is given a green signal.

"It is a fragile ecosystem and the project will damage it. A couple of years ago, the state government proposed the construction of a concrete road, but it was dropped by the central Environment Ministry after many conservationists raised objections. But in the same meeting, the standing committee of the National Board of Wildlife proposed the ropeway, for which the proposal has been sent now," clarified a wildlife activist.

Notably, Kollur is an important place of pilgrimage in Karnataka, which has a temple dedicated to the goddess Mookambika. The Kodachadri hilltop, a natural heritage site, is 40 kilometres from Kollur and is frequented by devotees. However, currently, devotees or tourists can reach the hilltop either through a five-hour trek or in a vehicle using an unpaved road in a jeep.

According to NHLML, visitors face difficulty due to the narrow road. The state government had submitted a proposal for forest clearance to widen the road. However, it was rejected by MoEF&CC.

Experts say the ropeway will further increase the number of footfalls leading to irreversible damage to the fragile ecosystem.

However, NHLML reasons that the ropeway project has a low carbon footprint compared with other modes of transport.

"Ropeway is an environment-friendly system. There will be less impact on the environment during the installation and operation of the system. It will boost the local economy and enhance tourism in the area with a large number of devotees visiting the hilltop," said a document submitted by NHLML.

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CBC 10401/11/0018/2425

Pass or fail?

Debate over education policies in Karnataka

| Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com

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The terms 'pass and fail' carry significant weight, often creating undue pressure on students. Until 2009, the Indian education system followed a pass-fail framework starting from Grade 1. In Karnataka, a board exam was conducted in Grade 7 , later renamed as public exams, and remained in practice until the 1990s. However, under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, the no-fail policy was implemented for students up to Grade 9. Critics argue this has adversely affected learning outcomes.

No exams, no pressure, but at what cost?

The fear of failure was once a motivator for students to study diligently. The removal of the 'pass-fail' system aimed to prevent dropouts. However, this has resulted in a worrying trend: students completing Grade 10 without basic literacy and numeracy skills. Many fail to even write their names, and mathematical skills such as solving simple problems like 9x8 remain elusive for some students.

Critics of this no pass fail regime argue that previously, students who passed Grade 7 demonstrated a broader knowledge base, including grammar, arithmetic, and general awareness. Now, even college students struggle with fundamental skills. Experts attribute this decline not just to the policy but also to the acute shortage of teachers. Over 6,000 schools in Karnataka have only one teacher, leaving students without adequate guidance.

Exams build confidence

Experts believe that early exposure to examinations fosters confidence and academic growth. Without experiencing the challenge of exams in lower grades, students face a sudden and often overwhelming hurdle at the SSLC (Grade 10) level. This has led to a rise in stress-related incidents, including cases of students considering extreme measures. Introducing a re-examination option for students who fail in Grades 5 and 8 could address some concerns. This approach would give students an opportunity to improve while allowing educators to identify and address learning gaps early on.

Karnataka's no-fail policy

Although the central government amended the no-fail policy in 2019, Karnataka has yet to fully implement it. In 2023-24, board exams for Grades 5, 8, and 9 were conducted, but they were limited to grade-based evaluations without failure. Whether the pass-fail system should be reinstated remains undecided, with the government carefully deliberating its implications.

Challenges in the current education system

Many students pass without acquiring foundational skills, partly due to teacher shortages and inadequate infrastructure in schools. Experts stress the need for addressing these systemic issues before implementing any pass-fail system. Without sufficient teachers and resources, children cannot receive quality education.

Balanced approach needed

Experts argue that pass-fail system could serve as a tool for assessing both students and teachers. Evaluating teaching effectiveness based on student outcomes might encourage educators to refine their methods. However, experts caution against imposing undue pressure on children. Policies must strike a balance between maintaining academic rigor and fostering a supportive learning environment.

STATS THAT CONCERN

According to the 2022 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)

48% of students in Grades 6–8 struggle to read Grade 2–level texts.

28.4% of students are unable to solve basic division problems.

36.1% of students in Grades 3–5 cannot perform basic subtraction.

> **There is a need to address systemic issues in the education system before implementing any pass-fail system. Without sufficient teachers and resources, children cannot receive quality education** –Educationist

Who says what

DOES FAILURE PUSH CHILDREN TOWARDS MENTAL DISTRESS?

"Failure can indeed be a distressing factor for children. There are no positive aspects to failing students in grades 5 to 8. This approach might lead parents to impose unnecessary pressure on young children to protect their family's reputation. While it is beneficial for children to develop a sense of responsibility towards studies through the fear of exams, this mindset cannot be instilled in children of grades 5 and 8. Currently, students in grades 10 and 12 are already visiting psychiatrists due to academic stress. Introducing a pass-fail system in grades 5 and 8 could potentially lead to an increase in such cases at an earlier stage. Presently, there is no structured screening for academic or learning difficulties until grade 9. Implementing a failure system could help identify such challenges earlier, enabling teachers to take corrective measures from the start. Ultimately, teachers hold the key to addressing these challenges effectively."

–Dr. P.V. Bhandari, Psychiatrist

WILL THIS BENEFIT CHILDREN?

"Implementing the pass-fail system in grades 5 and 8 could prevent parents from exerting undue pressure on their children. It will also allow for a clearer understanding of a child's abilities and the setting of realistic goals accordingly. This system could support personality development and provide structured guidance to strengthen educational foundations.

Furthermore, it will prepare students mentally for their grade 10 examinations and help address any learning deficiencies in advance. It will cultivate a mindset in children to enjoy learning, embrace exams, and take pride in their academic achievements, paving the way for a positive and fulfilling educational journey."

–Dr. Anand Pandurangi,
Renowned Psychiatrist

FIRST, ADDRESS THE SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS

"When assessing the intellectual growth of children, the pass-fail system in grades 5 and 8 becomes essential to bridge learning gaps. However, the government must first address the shortage of teachers and ensure adequate facilities in schools. Without qualified teachers and proper resources, merely failing students will not improve the quality of education. How can students be expected to learn when there are no teachers to guide them? The government must take immediate steps to resolve these issues before implementing a pass-fail system in these grades. Placing the entire burden of failure on children is neither fair nor acceptable."

–Sangeetha Kattimani,
Prominent Education Expert

Bravehearts shine

Scenes from the 'Know Your Army Exhibition' at the Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground on Saturday; Para motor flying, Tornadoes bike display, pipe band display, and Khukri dance; A 'Shwet Ashw' official of the Corps of Military Police (CMP) performs during a weapons and equipment exhibition

Blackspots, delay in work on highways taking toll on citizens

Please stop toll collection on poorly maintained or incomplete highways, demand B'lureans

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Citizens have raised a demand that toll collection on national highways that are either poorly maintained or still under construction be stopped. There are many national highways, which are struggling with the rising number of accidents and delays in road development. Union Minister V Somanna revealed that 256 fatalities occurred on the Nelamangala-Tumakuru stretch over the last three years due to road mishaps, further fueling public outrage.

Citizens voiced their concern over the state of highways and the practice of collecting tolls on incomplete roads. "National highway construction plays a vital role in development. Toll collection should only begin after project completion, and leftover debris from construction sites must be cleared," said S Rajashekar Murthy, a retired police officer from Heggade. Echoing the concern, Sudarshan, an ex-serviceman from Nittur, noted, "NH-206 near Nittur has been under construction for years, causing daily accidents. Night travel is more dangerous. Authorities must act soon."

Blackspot near Nelamangala toll gate

Highlighting specific issues, Rangaswamy, a former municipal president from Kunigal, stated, "The stretch from Anchepalya to Yediyur on NH-75 is poorly designed, leading to frequent accidents and loss of lives. The National Highway Authority must address these issues immediately." Similarly, Lavanya from Mataghatta pointed out, "The Tumakuru-Tiptur stretch is riddled with unscientific road designs and speed humps, creating challenges for drivers, particularly at night."

On the delays, M Nagesh shared, "At Jakkanahalli Gate near the Ettinahole project site, incomplete highway work has led to one-way traffic with barricades, causing accidents. Authorities must ensure safe passage for vehicles." Sunita Kumar, another citizen, said representatives and officials must address public issues and plan roads to connect rural areas. "The ongoing slow pace of highway construction over many years is unacceptable. Citizens urge the government to halt toll collection until highway projects are completed and properly maintained, stressing on the need for scientific road designs and timely execution to ensure safe and efficient travel."

> **"Toll collection at national highways should only begin after project is completed, and leftover debris from construction sites is cleared**
>
> –S Rajashekar Murthy, citizen

SpaDeX satellites spaced 230 m apart: ISRO

The two Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) satellites that the ISRO aims to unite in orbit are currently separated by a distance of 230 m, with their health status deemed 'normal', the space agency said on Saturday.

On Friday evening, the satellites were separated by 1.5 kms. ISRO has said that the distance would be reduced to 500 m by Saturday morning.

In a post on 'X', ISRO said, "Arrested at Inter Satellite Distance (ISD) of 230 m, all sensors are being evaluated. Spacecraft's health is normal."

The space agency, however, has not committed to a date for conducting the docking experiments, which will bring the satellites together in space.

The SpaDeX project has already missed two announced schedules for docking experiments on January 7 and 9.

ISRO successfully launched the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission on December 30.

The PSLV C60 rocket carrying two small satellites, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), along with 24 payloads, had lifted off from the first launchpad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, and about 15 minutes after liftoff, the two small spacecraft weighing about 220 kg each were launched into a 475-km circular orbit as intended.

According to ISRO, SpaDeX mission is a cost-effective technology demonstrator mission for the demonstration of in-space docking using two small spacecraft that was launched by PSLV.

This technology is essential for India's space ambitions such as Indian on Moon, sample return from the Moon, the building and operation of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), etc.

In-space docking technology is essential when multiple rocket launches are required to achieve common mission objectives. Through this mission, India is marching towards becoming the fourth country in the world to have space docking technology. **–PTI**

Slum grows as lake withers

BBMP has failed to relocate and rehabilitate slum dwellers around Puttenahalli Lake

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Residents around Puttenahalli Lake in South Bengaluru complain that a slum settlement beside the water body has turned the lake into a garbage bin. Locals say although the lake was rejuvenated by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in 2009 the civic agency did not relocate and rehabilitate the slum dwellers, despite the settlement not being notified. Thus, what started as a settlement of 30-40 families has now become a colony of over 100 families discarding every kind of waste into the lake.

"The settlement is located next to the walking track and thus a portion of the lake boundary could never be fenced, making the lake vulnerable. We are not able to carry out improvement work as we'd like to because of theft and vandalism," said Usha Rajagopalan, Chairperson, Puttenahalli Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust (PNLIT).

Members of PNLIT say they have been following up with the authorities to rehabilitate the slum dwellers; but, they have maintained a stoic silence on the matter.

"In March 2019, the High Court gave 12 weeks and directed the Revenue Department and Slum Board to decide on the matter, however, the authorities never acted on it. Even though we have approached them on multiple occasions, they have maintained stoic silence on the issue," added Rajagopalan.

PNLIT members say while BBMP has been pitching in with bigger infrastructural support, regular maintenance of the water body is done by the Trust members, with the help of volunteers and citizen groups. Citizens have been managing the affairs and meeting expenses by raising funds under CSR. According to Rajagopalan, it is vital to understand the importance of post-rejuvenation maintenance. "We have been requesting BBMP to help us co-manage the lake. While the civic agency is the custodian, locals must be involved in the management aspects," she added.

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PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Jafar sab S/o Lateef sab R/o Huyil Dora Post Bukkapattana Sira Hubli Taluk Ranganahalli Tumkur-572137 have changed my name to Jafar.

I, Jamal Ali Baig also Known as Saleem S/o Mahboob Ali Baig R/o No 17 2nd floor 1st Cross Marappa Thota M R Palya J C Nagar B'luru-560006 have changed my name to Jamal Ali Baig for all purposes

I, Lasya Manjunath S/o, N S Manjunath R/o # 1154, Beladingalu, 35th Main Road, Poornapragna Nagar, Uttarahalli, Subramanyapura Bengaluru 560061. have changed my name to Lasya for all purposes.

I, RAAJESH SACHDEV s/o Muralidhar Sachdev R/a No 12, Flat No 31, Embassy Court Crescent Road, High Ground, Bangalore-560001. I have changed my name to RAJESH SACHDEV. Vide Affidavit dated on 09/01/2025. Sworn Before Notary C K Anupama Bangalore

I, REINU SACHDEV D/o Bhajan Das R/a No 12, Flat No 31, Embassy Court Crescent Road, High Ground, Bangalore-560001. I have changed my name to RENU SACHDEV. Vide Affidavit dated on 09/01/2025. Sworn Before Notary C K Anupama Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Hemantha Kumar S/o Hanumantharayappa, residing at Nagavalli Village, Hebburu Hobli, Tumkur Taluk & District, stating that my name mentioned in SSLC marks card as Hemantha Kumara N.H and my name mentioned in Aadhar Card & Pan Card as Hemantha Kumar N.H. But above mentioned names **Hemantha Kumara N.H & Hemantha Kumar N.H.** are belongs to me only. All the above information is correct and true. Therefore, i have sworn before Notary and Advocate P.G.Ramachandrappa, Tumkur vide affidavit dated 10.01.2025.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Kishore K.N. S/o K.S.Nanjundappa, residing at No.930, KRS Agrahara, Kunigal Town, Tumkur District, Karnataka, India-572130, stating that my name mentioned in all the documents of education and Aadhar Card as Kishore .K.N and my name mentioned in passport as Kishore Kunigal. But above mentioned names **Kishore .K.N & Kishore Kunigal** are belongs to me only. All the above information is correct and true. Therefore, i have sworn before Notary and Advocate B.R.Narayana Gowda, Kunigal vide affidavit dated 11.01.2025.

LOST & FOUND

DOCUMENT LOST
I, Nataraj .H.M residing at No.12, behind degree college, SLN layout, Hesaraghatta, Bangalore-560088 stating that, I have lost the original Grant Certificate and Official Memorandam (in the name of Rajamma W/o Late Mariyappa) of my property (Sy.No.79 situated at Kukkanahalli Village) at Hesaraghatta on 10.06.2019. In this regard, I have filed a complaint (Lost Report No.1422607/2025) to Bangalore city police on 09.01.2025. If anyone finds the said documents, please contact the above address or call to mobile: **9591904024.**

education

ADMISSIONS

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It's written in the planets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The tradition is fading because the number of skilled people who understand and create these calendars manually is very small," said Vishnu Ananth Hosagrahar, Director of The Bangalore Printing and Publishing Company.

The software solution

To bridge this gap, The Bangalore Printing and Publishing Company developed a software program three years ago. This software automates the complex calculations traditionally performed by Panchanga Kertas. "The software reduces human error and provides accurate planetary placements for future years," explained Hosagrahar.

The program is not a complete replacement for human expertise. Each year, the company collaborates with Panchanga Kertas to verify the software's outputs, ensuring that the calendars maintain their authenticity and precision. "The results are remarkably close to the calculations done manually by experts," Hosagrahar added.

Meeting increasing demand

The demand for traditional calendars remains strong, both locally and globally. This year alone, The Bangalore Printing and Publishing Company sold 18 to 19 lakh calendars, including the iconic red-and-black Bangalore Press calendar and the Mallige Panchanga Darshini, designed to simplify Panchanga basics for the common person.

Interestingly, these calendars are not just popular in Karnataka. The company also caters to global markets, creating traditional calendars tailored to time zones in the United States.

Preserving culture through tech

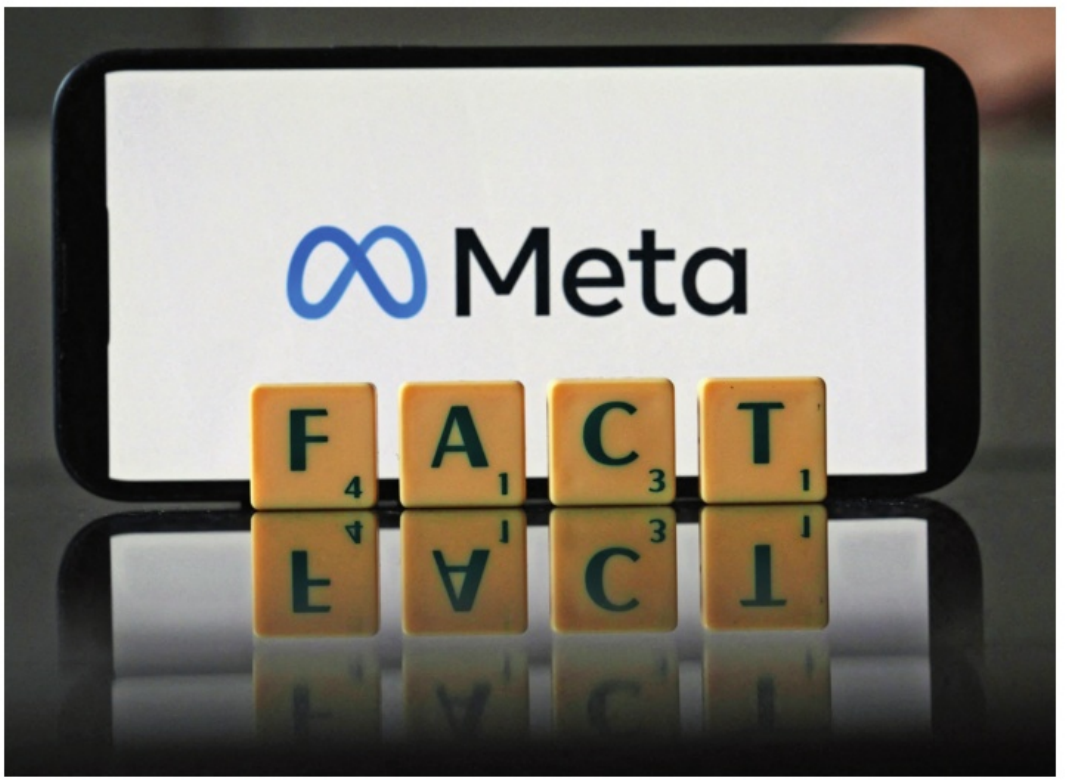
The software's impact goes beyond mere convenience. It represents a fusion of tradition and modernity, ensuring that a time-honoured craft adapts to the realities of the present. "People often dismiss Panchangas as superstition, but they are based on precise scientific and mathematical calculations of planetary movements," said Hosagrahar.

The automation of festival mapping and astronomical data is a testament to how technology can preserve cultural heritage without compromising its integrity.

While software has alleviated some challenges, the decreasing number of Panchanga Kertas remains a concern. The integration of technology into this ancient craft illustrates how innovation can coexist with tradition, ensuring that Karnataka's cultural treasures remain relevant in an ever-changing world. As the demand for traditional calendars grows, this balance between heritage and high-tech may be the key to safeguarding the craft for generations to come.

No more fact-checking for Meta. How will this change media — and the pursuit of truth?

FALSE ALARM



Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts," the late New York Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan memorably wrote four decades ago.

That seems like a simpler time — when you consider Meta's decision to end a fact-checking program on social media apps Facebook, Instagram and Threads and what the ramifications might be for an industry built to bring clarity and to seek truth itself.

Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg's announcement this week was widely seen in news verification circles as a genuflection to president-elect Donald Trump, whose first term in office popularized the phrase "alternative facts."

Meta is replacing its fact-checking with a "community notes" system reminiscent of X, where it depends on users to correct misinformation on its platforms. In a way, that hearkens back to "he said-she said" journalism, or the view of some political debate moderators that it should be the role of opponents, not journalists, to point out falsehoods. It also hints at something else: the notion that the loudest voices and the best-told stories can win the day.

The moment is a crossroads for the fact-checking industry, which will see its influence sharply curtailed when Trump takes office for his second term.

"In the short term, this is bad news for people who want to go on social media to find trustworthy and accurate information," said Angie Drobnic Holan, director of the International Fact-Checking Network. Her organization started in 2015 with about 50 members and now has 170, some of whom face staff cuts and potential closure because of Meta's move.

"In the long term," she said, "I think it's very uncertain what this will all mean."

What is fact-checking?

Fact-checking is an odd industry, particularly when you consider that it's a function of all journalism. The concept bubbled up about three decades ago in part to counter "he said-she said" stories and monitor claims in political ads. The organization FactCheck.org, whose primary aim was to help reporters, started in 2003 and the more public-facing PolitiFact four years later.

PolitiFact, started by then-Tampa Bay Times Washington bureau chief Bill Adair in 2007, won a Pulitzer Prize for its 2008 campaign coverage. It called out politicians for bending or breaking the truth in ways often difficult for reporters who were protective of the sources whose voices populated their stories. By 2012, fact-checkers were under attack, primarily by Republicans convinced many were biased and researched voting records to try and prove many arbiters were Democrats, said Adair, now a Duke University professor. Trump, he said, "sped up a trend that had already begun."

Some conservative suspicion of fact-checkers has been warranted because of mistakes that have been made, although there were some Republicans who uttered falsehoods and just didn't like being called out for it, said Steve Hayes, CEO and editor of the center-right site The Dispatch.

"The people who practice fact-checking are in some ways saying, 'We are the arbiter of truth, period,' Hayes said. "And anytime you do this, it invites scrutiny on the work that you do."

Fact-checking is an odd industry, particularly when you consider that it is a function of all journalism. The concept bubbled up about three decades ago in part to counter "he said-she said" stories and monitor claims in political ads

Biased or not

Labeling systems largely didn't help, either. Giving a misstatement the label of "pants on fire," as some fact-checkers have, may be a catchy way of attracting attention but also fostered resentment.

Holan resists the view that fact-checkers have been biased in their work: "That attack line comes from those who feel they should be able to exaggerate and lie without rebuttal or contradiction."

GOP suspicion still quickly took root. Journalism's Poynter Institute, in a survey taken in 2019, found that 70% of Republicans thought the work of fact-checkers was one-sided. Roughly the same percentage of Democrats thought they were fair. Poynter hasn't asked the same question since. Yet last year, Poynter found that 52% of Americans say they generally find it difficult to determine whether what they're reading about elections is true or not.

The statistic illustrates a hunger to cut through rhetoric. To many, the shift in many opinions about the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol insurrection is a recent reminder about what could happen if false narratives are given room to take root.

Trump effect

Trump's second victory has changed the equation at Meta. Already, X has curtailed its independent fact-checking under owner Elon Musk, a Trump ally. The moves are significant because it removes fact-checking from venues where many users might not otherwise be exposed to it.

On its own, fact-checking "doesn't reach those exposed to misinformation," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson of the University of Pennsylvania, who started FactCheck.org. "It tends to reach audiences that were already knowledgeable and wary."

On social media

On social media, fact-checking also became part of the algorithms that drove information to people, or away from them. Material labeled as false would often be downgraded so it received less exposure. To Republicans who have criticized Big Tech, that amounted to censorship. Yet to Jamieson, successful fact-checking is not censorship — "it's the process of arguing."

Jamieson expressed some optimism that other smart social media users will step up to prevent the dangerous spread of falsehoods. But for fact-checking as it is today to continue to thrive and, even, exist as a journalistic endeavor, Adair said it will likely take influential Republican figures to publicly stand up for the importance of truth, and he praised Hayes' outlet The Dispatch as a conservative site that has done aggressive fact-checks. **AP**

BITS & BYTES

KIDS NOT WELCOME?

The US government sued Airbnb on Friday, alleging housing discrimination after a host refused to rent an apartment to a mother with three children. In a complaint, the Department of Justice said the company violated the Fair Housing Act through Jarrod Blake's rejection of a rental for Charisse Ylitalo and her sons, aged 9, 11 and 14.

The complaint said Airbnb lets hosts designate property as unsuitable for children aged 2 to 12, or infants under age 2. Airbnb declined to comment on the lawsuit, but said it was committed to welcoming people with children. **Reuters**

DIVERSITY OUT

Joining companies such as John Deere and Walmart, Facebook and Instagram's parent company Meta Platforms Inc. is getting rid of its diversity, equity and inclusion program that includes hiring, training and picking vendors, a company spokesperson confirmed on Friday.

The move, first reported by Axios, cites an internal memo sent to employees. Axios said the tech giant said the U.S. Supreme Court "has recently made decisions signaling a shift in how courts will approach DEI. ... The term 'DEI' has also become charged, in part because it is understood by some as a practice that suggests preferential treatment of some groups over others." **AP**

IT'S A DEAL

Hewlett Packard Enterprise has struck a deal worth over $1 billion to provide Elon Musk's social media platform X with servers optimized for artificial intelligence work, Bloomberg News reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the matter.

The agreement was reached late last year, the report said, adding that competitors Dell Technologies and Super Micro Computer had also bid to sell the equipment. Hewlett Packard Enterprise declined to respond to a Reuters request for comment. AI servers have been seeing strong demand from enterprises looking for hardware capable of powering artificial intelligence applications. **Reuters**

HEALTH TIP: A persistent dry cough may also be caused by non-contagious factors such as acid reflux or allergies

Honey is one of the oldest home remedies for dry cough; it is natural, anti-inflammatory, and coats your throat

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Sunday, January 12, 2025
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All you need to know about...

HPV vaccine

More protection
One of the most effective ways to protect against cervical cancer is through the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. While the vaccine is widely recognized for its role in preventing cervical cancer, it offers protection against much more.

All about HPV
The HPV vaccine, which became available in 2006, offers protection against the virus, reducing the risk of cancers caused by HPV. HPV is a common virus, with some types spread through sexual contact. While many HPV infections clear up on their own within 1-2 years, long-lasting infections increase the risk of developing cancer.

Prevents other cancers too
The HPV vaccine has been shown to prevent up to 70% of cervical cancers, 80% of anal cancers, 60% of vaginal cancers, 40% of vulvar cancers, and more than 90% of oropharyngeal cancers caused by HPV. It also prevents genital warts, commonly known as anogenital warts.

Which other cancers
The HPV vaccine prevents over 90% of cancers caused by the virus. While it's well-known for preventing cervical cancer, it also helps protect against other types of cancer:

- In women, the vaccine protects against cancers of the anus, vulva, vagina, and oropharyngeal cancer (cancer of the mouth and throat).
- In men, it protects against penile, anal, and oropharyngeal cancer (cancer of the mouth and throat).

Smart move
HPV can affect anyone, regardless of gender, and anyone can develop HPV-related cancers. That's why getting vaccinated is a smart move for almost everyone. —**Femina**

SANKRANTHI SPECIAL

How to make festive days even more memorable? With these dishes

LOHRI: RAM LADOO

INGREDIENTS
For the Ladoos:
- Moong dal (yellow split lentils) – 1 cup
- Chana dal (Bengal gram) – 1/4 cup
- Ginger – 1-inch piece (grated)
- Green chilies – 2 (finely chopped)
- Asafoetida (hing) – a pinch
- Cumin seeds – 1 tsp
- Salt – to taste
- Oil – for frying

For the Garnish:
- Grated radish – 1 cup
- Chopped coriander leaves – 2 tbsp
- Green chutney – as required (coriander-mint chutney)
- Tamarind chutney – as required
- Chaat masala – to sprinkle

METHOD

Step 1: Preparation
- Wash and soak the moong dal and chana dal together for 4-5 hours, or overnight. Drain the water and grind the lentils to a coarse paste. Avoid adding too much water while grinding. Transfer the lentil paste to a bowl and whisk it vigorously for 5-7 minutes to incorporate air. This step is crucial to make the batter light and fluffy. Add grated ginger, chopped green chilies, asafoetida, cumin seeds, and salt to the batter. Mix all the ingredients thoroughly.

Step 2: Frying and Serving
- Heat oil in a kadhai or deep pan over medium heat. Drop small portions of the batter into the hot oil using a spoon or your fingers. Fry the ladoos until they turn golden brown and become crispy. Remove the fried ladoos from the oil and drain them on a paper towel to remove excess oil. Place the fried ladoos on a serving plate. Top the ladoos with grated radish and chopped coriander. Drizzle green chutney and tamarind chutney over the ladoos. Sprinkle chaat masala on top for an extra flavor boost.

PONGAL FAVES

AMBODE

INGREDIENTS
- Chana dal (split Bengal gram) – 1 cup
- Green chilies – 3-4 (adjust to spice level)
- Ginger – 1-inch piece
- Curry leaves – 1 sprig (finely chopped)
- Coriander leaves – 2 tbsp (finely chopped)
- Onion – 1 (finely chopped)
- Asafoetida (hing) – a pinch
- Salt – to taste
- Fennel seeds (saunf) – 1/2 tsp
- Rice flour – 1-2 tbsp (for extra crispiness)
- Oil – for deep frying

METHOD
- Soak Chana Dal: Wash the chana dal thoroughly and soak it in water for about 2-3 hours.
- Drain the water completely after soaking.
- Prepare the Batter: Grind 3/4th of the soaked chana dal coarsely (without adding water) in a blender.
- Leave the rest of the dal whole for texture.
- In the same blender, grind green chilies and ginger to a coarse paste and mix with the ground dal.
- Add the Seasonings: o Transfer the ground mixture to a mixing bowl.
- Add the whole chana dal, finely chopped onions (if using), curry leaves, coriander leaves, fennel seeds, asafoetida, and salt.
- Mix well. If the mixture feels too wet, add 1-2 tbsp of rice flour to bind it better.
- Shape the Ambode: Take a small portion of the mixture and shape it into a small flat patty.
- Ensure it is neither too thick nor too thin for even frying.
- Deep Fry: Heat oil in a deep frying pan on medium flame.
- Once the oil is hot, gently slide the ambode into the oil.
- Fry in batches until golden brown and crispy on both sides.
- Remove and drain on a paper towel.
- Serving Suggestions: Serve hot Ambode with coconut chutney or as a tea-time snack.

SAKKARAI PONGAL

INGREDIENTS
- Raw rice – 1 cup
- Moong dal – 1/4 cup
- Jaggery – 1 cup (grated or powdered)
- Water – 4 cups
- Ghee – 3 tbsp
- Cashews – 10 to 12 (halved)
- Raisins – 10
- Cardamom powder – 1/2 tsp

METHOD
- Roast the Moong Dal: Dry roast the moong dal on low heat until it turns aromatic and lightly golden. Do not burn.
- Cook Rice and Dal: o Wash the raw rice and roasted moong dal together.
- Add them to a pressure cooker with 4 cups of water. Cook for 3-4 whistles or until soft and mushy.
- Prepare Jaggery Syrup: In a separate pan, dissolve the jaggery in 1/2 cup of water on low heat.
- Strain the syrup to remove impurities and keep it aside.
- Combine Rice, Dal, and Jaggery: Mash the cooked rice and dal mixture slightly.
- Add the jaggery syrup to it and mix well.
- Cook on low heat, stirring continuously until the mixture thickens slightly.
- Add Flavorings: Add cardamom powder and a tiny pinch of edible camphor (optional).
- Fry Cashews and Raisins: In a small pan, heat ghee. Fry cashews until golden and raisins until they puff up.
- Pour the ghee along with fried cashews and raisins into the Pongal.
- Final Mix: Stir everything well and cook for another 2-3 minutes until all flavors combine.

Recipes by Chef Mehul Khanna, Chef de cuisine, JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru

Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

Bob has completed ¾ of the book he is reading. He has read 150 more pages then he has yet to read. How many pages long is his book?

BangaloreMirror | 14
Sunday, January 12, 2025
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
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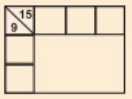
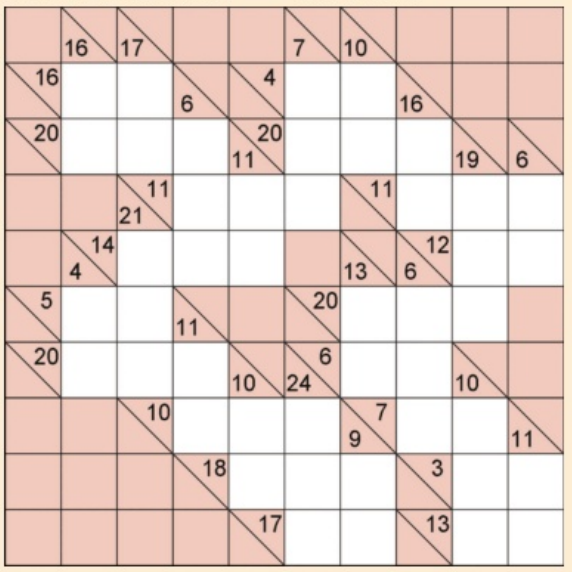
Kakuro

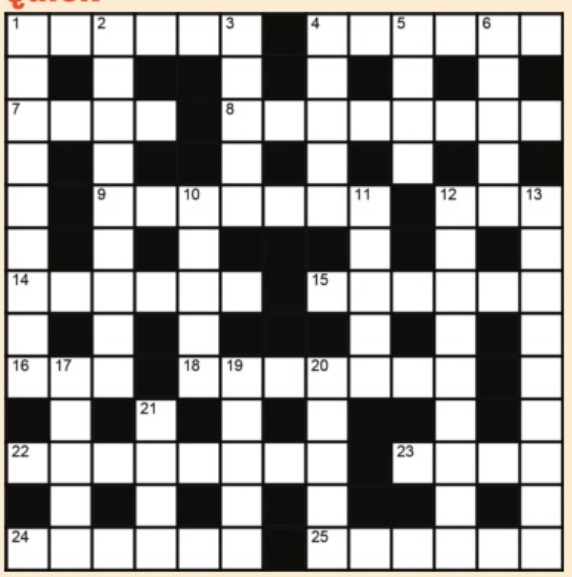
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Small parcel (6)
4 Enjoy (6)
7 Short person (4)
8 Pad put beneath carpet (8)
9 Tuft on the head (7)
12 Gratuity (3)
14 Tourist destination where R K Narayanan's Malgudi Days was filmed (6)
15 Gave consent (6)
16 At high temperature (3)
18 ___ ___ hill / Summit in Auckland (3,4)
22 Was persuasive (4,4)
23 Boo or jeer? (4)
24 Tramp (6)
25 Seem or look? (6)

DOWN

1 Section of a newspaper article (9)
2 Build (9)
3 Torso (5)
4 Cowboy competition (5)
5 String instrument (4)
6 Guru in our country (5)
10 Artist ___ Picasso (5)
11 Our national animal? (5)
12 Consequently (9)
13 Instrument to measure walking distance (9)
17 Broadcasting (2,3)
19 Scandinavian? (5)
20 Greek letter (5)
21 Very old (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS P

ZLOJ ATLAPT DUQT STQTM PTUMSTF JDUJ LST LR JDT ZUES UEZO ES PERT EO JL TSCLK EJ.

Linemaro

It took three tries to approach you, I kept losing my breath

Mindchow

I hear and I forget, I see and I remember; I do and I understand

Joke of the day

Boy: I can't marry you. My family is against it.
Girl: Who are they to stop you?
Boy: My wife and two kids.

Loop

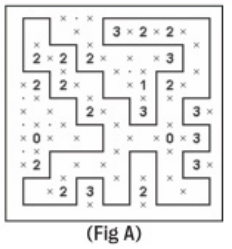
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

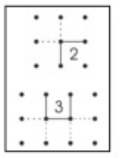
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

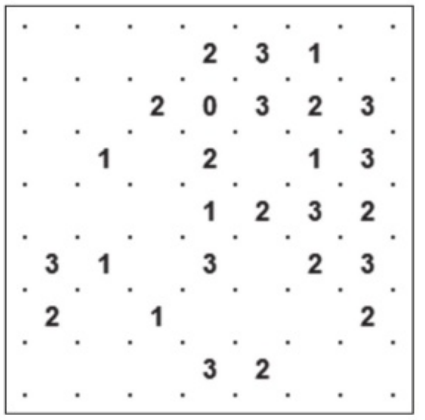
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



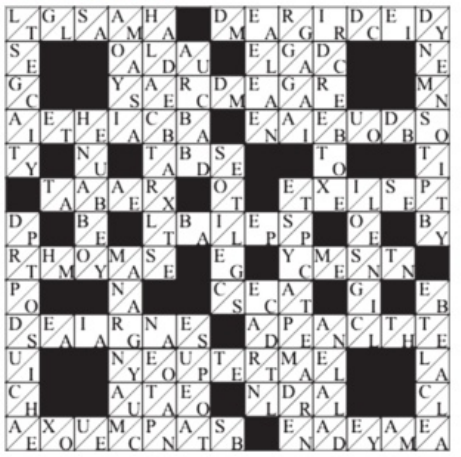
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



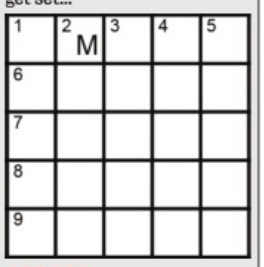
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

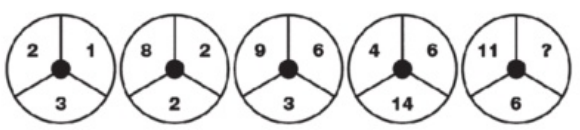
1 Assam; 6 I be go;
7 Maine; 8 Mocks;
9 Sees a

DOWN

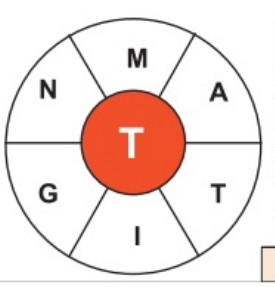
1 A be as; 2 Mam mo;
3 Goa is; 4 In sec;
5 K sees

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	2						6	
8								7
	5		9		8		1	
7		1	5		6	9		3
	3	2				8	7	
6		9	2		7	1		5
	7		4		3		5	
4								9
	9						3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7
2 6 7 8

Medium = 6
3 4 8 9

Hard = 4
3 7 9 6

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

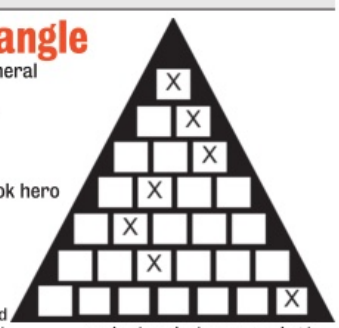
Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Blinds are higher. 3. Back of chair is different. 4. Diploma is moved. 5. Chair leg is moved. 6. Lapel is missing.

Riddler

A house with two occupants, sometimes one, rarely three. Break the walls, eat the boarders, then throw away me. What am I?

Alpha triangle

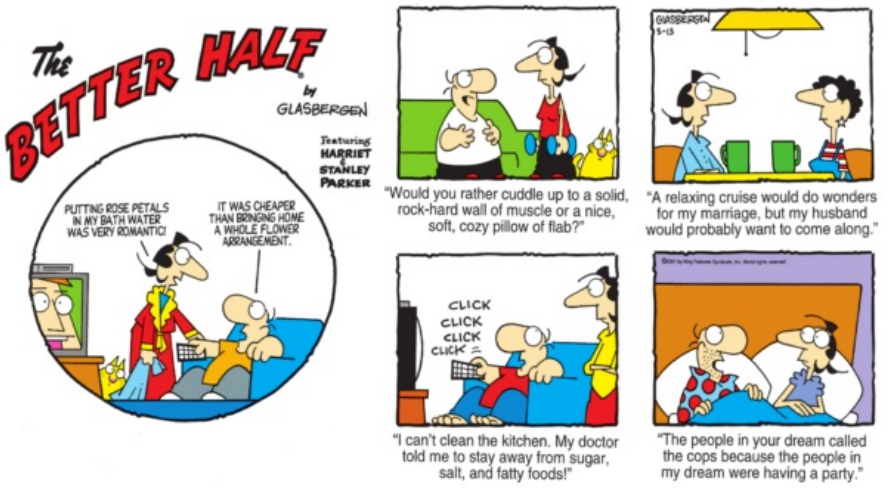
1 Ten in Roman numeral
2 Old flame
3 Western moniker
4 Theatre sign
5 Be
6 Cabs
7 Gaulish comic book hero



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
PUTTING ROSE PETALS IN MY BATH WATER WAS VERY ROMANTIC!
IT WAS CHEAPER THAN BRINGING HOME A WHOLE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT.
"Would you rather cuddle up to a solid, rock-hard wall of muscle or a nice, soft, cozy pillow of flab?"
GLASBERGEN 1-13
"A relaxing cruise would do wonders for my marriage, but my husband would probably want to come along."
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
"I can't clean the kitchen. My doctor told me to stay away from sugar, salt, and fatty foods!"
"The people in your dream called the cops because the people in my dream were having a party."

Day 416. Tired. Thirsty.
No rescue in sight. Food supplies gone.
Losing all hope of getting out of this place alive.
CAN WE LEAVE NOW?
STRAIGHTEN UP OR I'LL NEVER TAKE YOU SHOPPING AGAIN!

WE HAVE TO MAKE IT TO THE CASTLE! IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE!
HURRY! THEY'RE GAINING!
FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE
QUICK! INSIDE!
PURSUED BY A PACK OF WEREWOLVES, FLASH AND THORNE SEEK REFUGE IN A MYSTERIOUS CASTLE!
THERE...THAT SHOULD KEEP THEM OUT!
KEEFE 1-22 BILTER
AND YOU IN.
WHO..?
MY NAME IS SAPPHIRE. COME.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
WHO CARES! JUST BE THANKFUL WE FOUND IT.
YOU DIDN'T FIND THIS CASTLE. YOU WERE HERDED HERE LIKE THE CATTLE YOU ARE!
WHAT?!
YOU HAVE DEFILED OUR LAND LONG ENOUGH.
IT ALL ENDS ...NOW!
NEXT: THE CASTLE OF HORROR!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel lethargic, facing obstacles in your tasks. Exercise caution in decision-making, and avoid rushing for quick results in business. Overspending on unnecessary items could lead to tension within your family. Stay mindful of your priorities and try to focus on essential tasks.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Your hard work is likely to bring success today. A short work-related trip might be on the horizon, and your team could actively support your business plans. Even opponents may acknowledge your efforts. Additionally, you may receive positive news related to your siblings.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you can manage your expenses effectively, avoiding unnecessary purchases. Investing capital in your business or real estate could strengthen your financial health in the long term. While you focus on domestic matters, your spouse may experience health concerns, requiring your attention and care.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You'll feel energetic and confident today, creating and implementing plans efficiently. However, carefully review all documents before signing them. Your enthusiasm might lead you to invest in a family business. Lovebirds are advised to steer clear of trivial arguments to maintain harmony.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today may feel challenging due to anxiety and restlessness. You might spend time on unproductive tasks. Seeking peace, you may visit a religious place or consult elders for guidance to help you navigate through confusion.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
A strong sense of community might encourage you to reconnect with your network, offering potential long-term benefits. Professionals in glamour, art, and fashion may pursue new ventures. Students are likely to excel in their studies, and lovebirds can enjoy joyful moments together.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You might find yourself preoccupied with work, leading to fatigue and limited family time. Building connections with international networks is possible, but exercise caution in financial investments. Employees may look forward to a potential promotion.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
The situation is stabilising today. Luck may favour you in terms of business profits and recognition for your hard work. This could be an ideal time to re-launch delayed projects. A peaceful spiritual journey or a charitable donation might bring a sense of fulfilment.

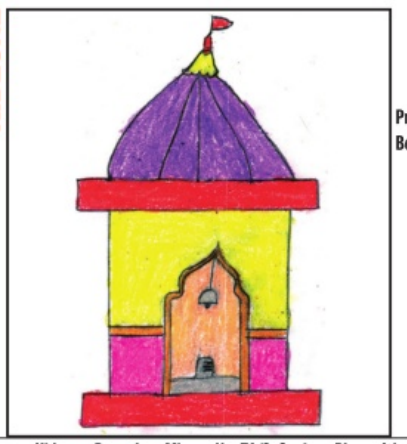
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
The unfavourable position of the moon may lead to health issues or financial setbacks. Avoid new business ventures or investments, as gains could turn into losses. Stay away from controversies and unnecessary expenditures to maintain balance.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
The moon's blessings might bring good news related to your career, and happiness will prevail in your domestic life. Avoid unnecessary arguments to preserve harmony. Real estate investments could prove beneficial. Students are likely to focus well on their studies.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Lethargy might slow you down initially, but you'll regain focus as the day progresses. Pay extra attention to your children's studies and remain cautious in financial decisions. Job seekers may find promising opportunities, and you'll have an edge over your adversaries.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Negative energy might make you feel uneasy today, and investing in trivial assets should be avoided. Friends may not offer the support you seek, so rely on your independence for decision-making. Focusing on self-reliance will help you navigate the day's challenges.

KIDZONE



Prerana G, Bengaluru

Anoushka, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
He has read 225 pages. He needs to read 75 pages. (225-150=75). 225 + 75 = 300 pages in the book.

RIDDLER A peanut

FAST FIVE

A	M	A	S	S
B	O	G	I	E
A	M	I	N	E
S	M	O	C	K
E	A	S	E	S

BULL'S EYE
gait, giant, gnat, mating, MATTING, mint, mitt, taint, taming, tint

STRIKE OUT

L	L	A	M	A	■	D	E	R	I	D	E	D	■	■
E	■	A	■	L	A	C	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
G	■	Y	A	R	D	A	G	E	■	N	■	■	■	■
I	T	H	A	C	A	■	N	A	B	O	B	S	■	■
T	■	U	■	A	B	S	■	O	■	I	■	■	■	■
T	B	A	R	■	O	■	E	X	I	S	T	■	■	■
P	■	B	■	T	A	L	E	S	■	O	■	Y	■	■
R	H	Y	M	E	■	E	■	C	E	N	T	■	■	■
O	■	■	A	■	S	E	A	■	I	■	B	■	■	■
D	E	I	G	N	S	■	A	P	A	C	H	E	■	■
U	■	N	E	U	T	R	A	L	■	■	■	L	■	■
C	■	U	A	E	■	N	D	A	■	■	■	L	■	■
E	X	E	M	P	T	S	■	E	D	E	M	A	■	■

QUICK

T	R	U	D	G	E	■	A	P	P	E	A	R	■	■
I	■	E	■	S	■	T	■	■	■	R	■	E	■	■
R	A	N	G	T	R	U	E	■	H	O	O	T	■	■
N	■	A	■	O	■	H	■	F	■	■	■	E	■	■
H	O	T	■	O	N	E	T	R	E	E	■	M	■	■
P	■	C	■	L	■	E	■	R	■	O	■	■	■	■
A	G	U	M	B	E	■	A	G	R	E	E	D	■	■
R	■	R	■	A	■	I	■	■	H	■	E	■	■	■
G	■	T	O	P	K	N	O	T	■	T	I	P	■	■
A	■	S	■	N	■	E	■	E	■	M	■	■	■	■
R	U	N	T	■	U	N	D	E	R	L	A	Y	■	■
A	■	O	■	R	■	O	■	Y	■	W	■	■	■	■
P	A	C	K	E	T	■	R	E	L	I	S	H	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
13. As you move from left to right, the sum of the digits in each circle forms a sequence of multiples of 6, from 6 to 30.

QUOTE UNCODE
Most people have never learned that one of the main aims in life is to enjoy it.

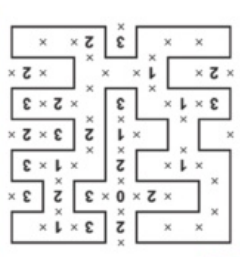
SUDOKU

9	2	7	3	1	4	5	6	8
8	1	4	6	2	5	3	9	7
3	5	6	9	7	8	4	1	2
7	4	1	5	8	6	9	2	3
5	3	2	1	4	9	8	7	6
6	8	9	2	3	7	1	4	5
2	7	8	4	9	3	6	5	1
4	6	3	7	5	1	2	8	9
1	9	5	8	6	2	7	3	4

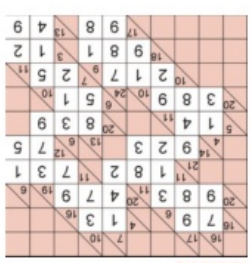
ALPHA TRIANGLE
X, Ex, Tex, Extx, Exist, Taxies, Asterix.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 6 − 8 + 7 = 7
Medium
8 + 4 + 3 − 9 = 6
Hard
6 / 3 + 9 − 7 = 4

LOOP



KAKURO



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Fun times

Fans and Khushi's rumoured boyfriend go gaga about her upcoming film

The excitement surrounding the upcoming romantic comedy 'Loveyapa' has reached new heights with the release of its trailer, which dropped on Friday. Starring Junaid Khan and Khushi Kapoor, the film is directed by Advait Chandan, and explores the complexities of modern relationships through a humorous lens. The trailer offers a glimpse into the lives of the lead characters, whose worlds are turned upside down when they swap their mobile phones, leading to a series of comedic and heartfelt revelations. With its vibrant visuals and catchy soundtrack, the trailer sets the stage for a youthful love story that promises to resonate with audiences.

Vedang Raina, who is rumored to be dating Khushi Kapoor shared the trailer on his IG handle and said, "Sooo much fun."

Netizens have taken to social media to express their excitement about the trailer. On X (formerly Twitter) one fan wrote, "The trailer is so much fun! And Junaid's character looks so much different from his role in Maharaj which was done so well, acting skills powered by versatility!"

Many praised Junaid's performance, noting how different his character is from his previous role in 'Maharaj'.

One user highlighted Junaid's versatility, suggesting that he is on track to achieve his first big hit with this film. Another fan remarked on the refreshing chemistry between the lead actors. **— ETimes**

Life's a beach

Alia Bhatt took to her Instagram handle to share stunning pics from her Thailand holiday, where she brought in the New Year with her close family. In the album, we saw Alia enjoying water sports, reading, chilling with sister Shaheen, and working out. Along with the pics, she wrote, "If you didn't post a beach photo, did you even go on vacation?". And, earlier this morning, she posted a pic where she is trying to curate an 'effortless' beach photo. She wrote in the caption' POV: 'You came to relax, but now you're curating your 'effortless' beach photos.

The Kapoor family rang in the New Year 2025 in style, celebrating together in Thailand. Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, and their daughter Raha Kapoor were joined by family members Neetu Kapoor, Soni Razdan, Shaheen Bhatt, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, and others, making it a memorable gathering. —ETimes

All work, no play

After L&T Chairman SN Subrahmanyan's comment on 90 hour work sparked a debate about work-life balance and mental wellbeing, the company issued a clarification.

Deepika Padukone, sharing the statement on Instagram, expressed her disapproval, saying, "And they just made it worse." Earlier, the actress responded strongly to his comment about making employees work on Sundays. The actress took to her Instagram stories to call out the senior executive for his statement.

Deepika wrote, "Shocking to see people in such senior positions make such statements." Deepika added the hashtag 'Mental Health Matters' .

In 2015, Deepika publicly shared her battle with depression, revealing that she had struggled with it the previous year and sought professional help. Through her foundation, Live Love Laugh, she works to raise awareness and support those facing mental health challenges.. **—ETimes**

Marriage talk again

It seems that Telugu star Prabhas might be getting married soon. Recently, trade analyst Manobala Vijayabalan took to his X (formerly Twitter) account and shared a cryptic post that simply read "Prabhas," accompanied by wedding and bride emojis. This has sparked excitement among fans.

The trade analyst has not issued any clarification on his post. Fans have reacted with excitement, with one asking, "Is it confirmed? #Prabhas " Another user expressed their enthusiasm by writing, "Finally! Congrats Prabhas sir." Many are also speculating about the identity of the woman, with some names such as Anushka Shetty being thrown around.

Last year, rumours about Prabhas's marriage circulated on the internet after he shared a cryptic post. However, during the 'Kalki 2898 AD' event, Prabhas addressed these speculations, dismissing them by stating, "I am not getting married soon because I don't want to hurt the feelings of my female fans." **—ETimes**

Timothee to perform on 'SNL'

Actor Timothee Chalamet is set to make history by serving as both the host and musical guest on the upcoming episode of Saturday Night Live (SNL) on January 25.

This marks a rare achievement in the long history of the iconic NBC show, as Chalamet becomes only the fifth non-musician to take on both roles in the show's 50-year history. According to The Hollywood Reporter, Chalamet will join an esteemed list of SNL hosts who have also served as musical guests, a group that includes legendary figures such as Paul Simon, Ray Charles, Elton John, and Britney Spears. What sets Chalamet apart, however, is that, unlike his predecessors, he is not primarily known for his singing or musical talents. The last time a non-singer held both positions was in 1995, when NFL star Deion Sanders took on the dual roles.

On the work front, Chalamet is currently gaining attention for his role in A Complete Unknown, a Bob Dylan biopic in which he performs several of Dylan's songs.

Chalamet is also in the midst of a potential Oscar campaign. With nominations set to be announced on January 17, he is a leading contender for the Best Actor award. If he wins, he would become the youngest actor ever to claim the honor. The current record-holder is Adrien Brody, who won the award at the age of 29 in 2003 for his performance in The Pianist. **—ANI**